

# Mali – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<b>20.5</b> MILLION	<b>5.9</b> MILLION	<b>1.3</b> MILLION	<b>378,000</b>	<b>155,000</b>
Estimated Population of Mali	Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance	Estimated Number of People in Need of Emergency Food Assistance	Estimated Number of IDPs in Mali	Estimated Number of Malian Refugees in Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger
UN – February 2021	UN – April 2021	CH – March 2021	UNHCR – July 2021	UNHCR – August 2021

- OAG actors have increasingly targeted civilians in conflict-affected areas of Mali in recent months, driving a nearly 20 percent increase in Mali's internally displaced population since December 2020.
- Protracted insecurity and resultant displacement—compounded by the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and localized flooding—continue to drive acute food insecurity and increasing rates of wasting in Mali.
- OAG use of IEDs in the tri-border region is endangering civilians, damaging critical infrastructure, restricting humanitarian access, and preventing affected populations from accessing essential services.



## TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Mali Response in FY 2021

USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$58,976,077
State/PRM <sup>2,3</sup>	\$24,050,000

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

**Total \$83,026,077**
<sup>1</sup>USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

<sup>3</sup>This total does not include approximately \$55 million in FY 2021 State/PRM funding for Malian refugees in neighboring countries, which increases total USG emergency funding for the complex emergency in Mali and the Malian refugee crisis in FY 2021 to more than \$138 million.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

CH Phase Classifications June – August 2021 <sup>4</sup>	
Phase 5	0 people in Catastrophe
Phase 4	61,504 people in Emergency
Phase 3	1,245,569 people in Crisis
Phase 2	4,084,276 people in Stress
Phase 1	15,720,652 people Minimally Food-Insecure

### Violence Continues Driving Food Insecurity Despite Average Rains in 2021

Protracted insecurity and resultant displacement—compounded by the socioeconomic effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic—continue to disrupt livelihoods, limit access to markets, and reduce agricultural production in Mali, contributing to acute food insecurity conditions, relief actors report. More than 1.3 million people likely faced Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity and required emergency food assistance to meet basic needs between June and August—a period that includes the start of the agricultural lean season, when food is scarcest—according to the latest Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis.<sup>5</sup> The projection represents a nearly 50 percent increase from the estimated 867,000 people requiring emergency food assistance between March and May.

While parts of southern Mali received average or above-average rainfall beginning in June 2021, improving food availability and household access to agricultural income, populations throughout northern Mali and the tri-border region adjacent to Burkina Faso and Niger—particularly in Gao and Mopti regions—continued to experience acute food insecurity

conditions due to armed conflict and violence disrupting the flow of food supplies to local markets, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Moreover, insecurity in the tri-border region continues to limit pastoralist households' access to pasture for livestock, resulting in rangeland degradation due to overgrazing, damage to agricultural crops, livestock losses, and diminished livelihoods. Furthermore, severe flooding throughout Mali in July and August led to significant crop losses, particularly in Timbuktu Region, where flooding inundated extensive areas of cultivated land, causing some households to lose the majority of their annual agricultural production. In addition, the prices of many staple foods—including maize, millet, and rice—increased throughout the country beginning in June, reducing household access to food, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP). Acute food insecurity conditions continue to disproportionately affect displaced populations; approximately 70 percent of displaced households in Mali rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their food needs, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Food security conditions in northern Mali and the tri-border region will likely improve moderately over the coming months, as the agricultural harvest season, increased milk production, and decreasing food prices improve household access to food supplies, FEWS NET reports. However, insecurity, displacement-related disruption of livelihoods, and flooding will continue to drive acute food insecurity conditions among vulnerable populations in many areas, leading to Stressed—IPC 2—food insecurity outcomes from October 2021 to January 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Estimates based on the March 2021 CH analysis.

<sup>5</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity. The Cadre Harmonisé (CH), a framework to analyze acute food insecurity in West Africa and the Sahel, uses a separate but similar scale ranging from Minimal (Phase 1) to Famine (Phase 5).

## **OAGs Increasingly Target Civilians, Driving Displacement**

Political instability—including coup d'états on May 24, 2021 and August 18, 2020—and increasing organized armed group (OAG) violence against civilians have resulted in widespread displacement and exacerbated humanitarian needs throughout Mali in recent months, particularly in the tri-border region, relief actors report. More than 1,000 security incidents occurred in Mali between July 2020 and July 2021, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED). Moreover, reports of conflict-related abductions surged during the first eight months of 2021, with more than 34 percent of all abductions reported since 2017 occurring in 2021 alone as of September, ACLED reports. OAG elements have been responsible for nearly 50 percent of reported abduction incidents over the last ten years. Similarly, OAG actors were responsible for over 50 percent of reported violent incidents against civilians—including abductions, deaths, and injuries—between April and June 2021, followed by community-based militias and self-defense groups, according to the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

In early August, armed group elements attacked Ouattagouna town in Gao's Ansongo *Cercle* after accusing community members of sharing information with Malian security forces, resulting in at least 57 deaths, the destruction of an undetermined number of houses, and the theft of valuables and livestock. Previously, OAG actors prevented local residents from leaving their village in Ségou Region's Niono *Cercle* during the month of July, generating urgent food and health needs and resulting in the deaths of six residents who were unable to leave to seek urgent medical care, according to international media. Additionally, OAGs continue to employ improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in attacks throughout the tri-border region, with nearly 50 percent of IED incidents occurring in Mopti alone. As of August, approximately 30 percent of IED casualties were civilians, the UN Mine Action Service reports. OAG-related violence remains most prevalent in Mopti, with daily incidents of abduction, assault, and intimidation reported by local media.

The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mali continues to grow in response to increased armed conflict, intercommunal violence, and violence against civilians. Insecurity had displaced nearly 378,000 people in Mali as of July 2021, representing an increase of nearly 17 percent since December 2020, according to IOM. Gao, Ménaka, Mopti, Ségou, and Timbuktu regions continue to host the highest number of IDPs, largely due to the persistent violence in these regions. In response to the deteriorating security conditions in central and northern Mali, in July, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres asked the UN Security Council to authorize approximately 2,000 additional troops to reinforce the MINUSMA peacekeeping force and bolster its capacity to protect civilians in the country.

## **Access Constraints Limit Populations' Ability to Reach Essential Services**

Widespread insecurity has continued to limit humanitarian access to areas of Mali experiencing high levels of humanitarian needs, and humanitarian organizations have remained subject to abductions, looting, illegal detention, general interference, and intimidation since the end of 2019, according to the UN. More than 200 security incidents involving humanitarian workers were reported in 2020—more than half of which took place in Mopti and Gao—representing an increase of approximately 10 percent from 2019, according to the 2021 UN Humanitarian Needs Overview.

In addition, OAG use of IEDs has damaged bridges, major roads, and telecommunications infrastructure in Gao and Ségou, further limiting the ability of conflict-affected populations to access basic social services and humanitarian assistance. For example, in Niono, IEDs placed by OAG elements destroyed four bridges, preventing residents in Farabougou village from accessing their fields for agricultural activity, isolating local communities, and cutting off all humanitarian access to households in the village,

according to the UN. Displacements due to insecurity have also disrupted populations' access to health care and education, according to the Protection Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian protection activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders.

## KEY FIGURES



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USAID/BHA partners providing emergency food assistance in Mali



8

USG partners implementing health programming

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

With approximately \$33.7 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA is supporting agriculture and food assistance programming to reach at-risk populations—including IDPs and host community members—in food-insecure regions across Mali. USAID/BHA supports WFP and five NGOs to provide emergency food assistance—including U.S.-sourced wheat, beans, and vegetable oil, as well as food vouchers redeemable for food baskets in local markets—to populations in need. In particular, the USAID/BHA-supported and NGO-managed Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)—an initiative to provide multi-sector support to populations in need following major conflict or climatic events—provides immediate food assistance to displaced populations before other assistance becomes available.

USAID/BHA NGO partners also continue to provide agriculture and general food security assistance to populations in conflict-affected areas of the country, as well as to individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### HEALTH

The U.S. Government (USG) supports the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and six additional implementing partners to provide life-saving health care—often integrated with nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming—to conflict-affected people in Mali. USAID/BHA and State/PRM partners provide medical supplies, support health centers, and train community health workers to support urgent health needs. With USAID/BHA support, UNICEF provided medicine and medical supplies to more than 46,000 people and distributed hygiene supplies to nearly 280 health care facilities, approximately 200 schools, and nearly 41,500 households in recent months. UNICEF also produced and disseminated videos and posters on COVID-19 preventative measures in coordination with government officials. Furthermore, USAID/BHA supports mobile health clinics to conduct outpatient consultations in areas lacking consistent access to health care services.



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USAID/BHA partners  
implementing WASH  
programming

## WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH programming throughout Mali to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and other communicable disease outbreaks, including measles and cholera, as well as resultant malnutrition conditions affecting children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). USAID/BHA specifically supports activities focused on repairing and increasing access to sources of safe drinking water as well as other WASH infrastructure, including latrines and handwashing stations. In addition, through the RRM, a USAID/BHA NGO partner provided food, shelter, and WASH assistance to more than 130,000 IDP households in Gao, Ménaka, Mopti, and Ségou in 2021.



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USG partners  
implementing nutrition  
programming

## NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports partners on the forefront of efforts to prevent and treat moderate and severe wasting across Mali. Working through UNICEF, WFP, and several NGO implementing partners, USAID/BHA is supporting people in need with community- and evidence-based programs aiming to decrease morbidity and mortality resulting from malnutrition. Focusing on children and PLW in particular, USAID/BHA programs help prevent, identify, and treat wasting among vulnerable populations in Mali.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Since 2012, armed conflict in northern Mali has resulted in protracted displacement, acute food insecurity, and violence against civilians. Improvements in the availability of food and basic services and security conditions in some parts of the country have enabled the return of nearly 85,000 refugees to areas of origin; however, the UN reports that continued insecurity in northern and central Mali, as well as increasing intercommunal conflict and natural hazards had resulted in the internal displacement of nearly 378,000 people and prompted approximately 155,000 Malians to flee to neighboring countries as of mid-2021. Prolonged displacement, disrupted trade flows, and constrained humanitarian access continue to increase vulnerabilities among affected households, according to the UN.
- On December 17, 2020, U.S. Ambassador to Mali Dennis B. Hankins redeclared a disaster due to the ongoing complex emergency in Mali. USAID/BHA and State/PRM continue to support food-insecure and vulnerable IDPs, refugees, and host community members with food assistance or other emergency interventions to improve agricultural production and revitalize livelihood activities, building community resilience to shocks. In addition, USAID/BHA and State/PRM have improved access to emergency health care, protection services, safe drinking water, and WASH infrastructure. USAID/BHA has also funded technical support and data collection on IDPs, returnees, and host communities to ensure effective and appropriate assistance.

## USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MALI RESPONSE IN FY 2021<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture; Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Food Assistance; Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Logistics; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Countrywide	\$26,603,235
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Bamako, Kayes, Koulikoro, Mopti, Segou, Sikasso	\$3,033,486
WFP	Logistics Support	Bamako, Gao, Kayes, Mopti, Timbuktu	\$1,450,000
	Nutrition	Gao, Kayes, Kidal, Menaka, Segou, Taoudeni, Timbuktu	\$3,400,000
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Commodities <sup>2</sup>	Countrywide	\$13,689,356
	Food Assistance—Vouchers	Countrywide	\$9,600,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$58,976,077</b>
<b>STATE/PRM<sup>3</sup></b>			
IPs	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$12,350,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$11,700,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$24,050,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MALI RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$83,026,077</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement, subject to change.

<sup>3</sup> This total does not include approximately \$55 million in FY 2021 State/PRM funding for Malian refugees in neighboring countries, which increases total USG emergency funding for the complex emergency in Mali and the Malian refugee crisis in FY 2021 to more than \$138 million.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)